

**Environmental Management (EM) Nevada Program Activities  
Monthly Report to the  
Nevada Site Specific Advisory Board (NSSAB)  
February 2018**

**Waste Disposal and Transportation**

- The Waste Volume Report for the first quarter fiscal year (FY) 2018 (October –December 2017) is available online: <http://www.nnss.gov/pages/programs/RWM/Reports.html>
- Update from previous months' reports – In July 2017, the EM Nevada Program received a Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA)-permit modification granted by the State of Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP) that allows for the construction of a new mixed low-level waste (MLLW) cell at the Nevada National Security Site (NNSS). Construction started mid-September 2017 and is scheduled to continue through February 2018. By the end of January 2018, very little construction work remains (some electrical, and fence construction, final grading of the soil surrounding the unit). The construction contractor is beginning to demobilize the construction site. Final quality assurance inspections will be conducted in February and March 2018. The replacement cell is projected to be operational by late winter or early spring 2018. (please see December 2016 – January 2018 NSSAB Monthly Reports for more information)



- Update from previous months' reports - In October 2017, NDEP issued a Notice of Alleged Violation to the Department of Energy (National Nuclear Security Administration [NNSA]) as a result of the NNSS accepting 93 containers of waste from a generator and disposing in accordance with LLW disposal practices. It was determined after the disposal, that the waste actually contained a hazardous component (chromium), which must be disposed in a RCRA-permitted disposal cell. The DOE NNSA developed a written response for corrective actions that was submitted to NDEP in early January 2018. (please see November 2017 – January 2018 NSSAB Monthly Reports for more information)
- Update from previous months' reports - Oak Ridge, TN generator (second generator): The facility evaluation resulted in one Finding. The generator submitted the final corrective action plan (CAP) that is currently being reviewed by the Radioactive Waste Acceptance Program (RWAP). There has been no change in status. (please see August 2017 - January 2018 NSSAB Monthly Reports for more information)
- Update from previous months' reports – West Valley, NY generator: The facility evaluation resulted in one Finding. The generator submitted the CAP that RWAP approved in December 2017. CAP closure is scheduled for February 2018. There has been no change in status. (please see November 2017 – January 2018 NSSAB Monthly Reports for more information)
- Update from previous months' reports – Pantex, TX generator. The tabletop facility evaluation resulted in two Findings. RWAP submitted its report, and the generator has 30 days to respond. (please see December 2017 – January 2018 NSSAB Monthly Reports for more information)
- In December 2017, LLW shipments from a West Valley, NY generator bound for the NNSS began transport by rail to a transfer location in Kingman, AZ. In January 2018, two containers were identified with breaches due to shifting internal contents and the lids of three other containers were not fully sealed when the intermodals were inspected and moved from the rail car to the flatbed trailer. No contamination was detected outside the containers. All five containers are LLW, however, they were not required to be identified as Class 7 radioactive materials under U.S. Department of Transportation regulations. These containers were repaired, reinspected, and recertified by the generator while in Kingman, AZ. Upon completion of this process, the containers were transported by truck to the NNSS without further incident. West Valley has paused further shipments to the NNSS in order to make adjustments to the packaging and closure process to reduce the potential of further similar issues.
- In January 2018, RWAP conducted the following facility evaluations:
  - Erwin, TN generator: This facility evaluation resulted in no Findings.
  - Albuquerque, NM generator: This was a tabletop facility evaluation that resulted in no Findings.
- In February 2018, RWAP will conduct one facility evaluation.

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- This aerial map displays the Nevada National Security Site (NNSS) divided into 30 numbered cells. Cell 8 is highlighted in yellow and labeled 'UE-10'. The site is bordered by the Nevada Test and Training Range to the west and Beatty to the southwest. To the southeast, the town of Mercury is visible near the intersection of roads 95, 373, and 180. A north arrow is located in the top right corner of the map.

***Corrective Action Unit (CAU) 97, Yucca Flat***  
Sampling at well UE-10j was completed in  
January 2018.

## Post-Closure Monitoring

### *Non-RCRA Post-Closure Monitoring Sites*

### *RCRA Post-Closure Monitoring Sites*

The RCRA Post-Closure Monitoring Sites include six CAUs where post-closure inspections, monitoring, and maintenance are performed in accordance with the RCRA Permit and closure requirements. Repairs and maintenance identified during the quarterly and semi-annual inspections were performed in January 2018.

### CAU 413, Clean Slate II Plutonium Dispersion

CAU 413 comprises one CAS on the Nevada Test and Training Range. The Corrective Action Decision Document/Corrective Action Plan (CADD/CAP) was approved by NDEP in June 2017. Field work continued in January 2018 and will continue in February 2018. Waste shipments were paused in December 2017 and were resumed in January 2018 and will continue in February 2018.

### ***CAU 414, Clean Slate III Plutonium Dispersion***

CAU 414 comprises one CAS on the Nevada Test and Training Range. The CADD/CAP was approved by NDEP in January 2018.

### ***CAU 575, Area 15 Miscellaneous Sites***

CAU 575 comprises four CASs related to historical nuclear testing. In January 2018, development of the Closure Report (CR) continued and will continue in February 2018. The CR is due to NDEP in May 2018.

### ***CAU 576, Miscellaneous Radiological Sites and Debris***

CAU 576 comprises six CASs related to historical nuclear testing. Development of the CADD and corrective action alternatives and cultural resource documentation continued in January 2018 and will continue in February 2018.

## **External Affairs:**

- NSSAB:
  - NSSAB hosted a Community Analysis Committee meeting for work plan item #7 in Las Vegas, NV – January 8, 2018
  - NSSAB hosted a Full Board Meeting in Beatty, NV – January 17, 2018
- Publications:
  - Ongoing social media campaign – 26 original posts on Facebook, 23 original tweets on Twitter, and one video posted to YouTube
  - Published and distributed updated *Federal Facility Agreement and Consent Order* fact sheet
  - Published *NNSS 2017 Year in Review* article and *Vote Now to Name the New Crane!* article/poll via EM News Flash (8,617 subscribers)
  - Submitted *Best Science Class Ever!* and *A Day in the Life of Groundwater Crew* photos/captions to EM STEM Rising Newsletter
- Ongoing exhibits:
  - *Operation Clean Desert* – Nevada Public Reading Room in Las Vegas, Amargosa Valley Library, Goldfield Library, Central Nevada Museum in Tonopah, NV, and Pahrump Valley Museum in Pahrump, NV
  - EM kiosks – located at National Atomic Testing Museum Public Reading Room and UNLV Lied Library in Las Vegas, NV
- Events/Stakeholders Meetings:
  - EM Nevada representative attended emergency preparedness round table discussion with NNSA and Nye County – January 17, 2018
  - EM Nevada Program conducted an intergovernmental meeting combined with a quarterly meeting with NDEP in Las Vegas, NV – January 29, 2018
  - Hosted Low-level Waste Stakeholders Forum in Pahrump, NV (NSSAB Members in attendance)– January 31, 2018
- Outreach:
  - Conducted Groundwater “Ant Farm” demonstration at Somerset Academy in Las Vegas, NV – January 11, 2018
  - Provided 151 Operation Clean Desert activity books, five Operation Clean Desert teacher’s guides, 151 Operation Clean Desert worksheets and five Operation Clean Desert CDs to Somerset Academy – Lone Mountain (Las Vegas)

- Provided *Federal Facility Agreement and Consent Order* and *Nevada Site Specific Advisory Board* fact sheets to the Public Reading Room
- Planned activities for February 2018:
  - Participate in Emergency Preparedness Summit in Pahrump, NV – February 7, 2018
  - Host tour of NNSS that includes Area 5 Radioactive Waste Management Complex (RWMC) for State of Nevada Legislature Committee on High Level Waste – February 8, 2018
  - Host Operation Clean Desert booth at Southern Nevada Science Teachers Association conference – February 10, 2018
  - Host Waste Generator Workshop in Las Vegas, NV – February 12-15, 2018
  - Publish Area 5 RWMC re-vegetation update article via EM News Flash